

## EMANCIPATION IN RUSSIA.

The gigantic work of Emancipation, to which Czar Alexander has consecrated his reign, is steadily progressing. The nobles, forced by the pressure of authority from above, and stimulated by the fear of outbreak from below, are yielding with the best grace they can command. In the Government of St. Petersburg, comprising the city and its suburbs, they have already perfected a plan of Emancipation. This plan, which has yet to be submitted to the Central Committee on Emancipation, gives full rights of citizenship to all Russians who are inhabitants of that Government. A strong effort was made to secure some indemnification, but the argument that serfdom was established by the will of the Emperor Boris Godounoff, and that consequently it might be abolished by the will of the Emperor Alexander, silenced all opposition, and the nobles now declare that that would be a shameful page in the History of Russia which should tell of such an outrage done to natural right.

Twelve years of an intermediate state are to precede and prepare for the full restoration of the serfs to freedom. During that period the present is to be at liberty to leave his present owner if he have not five desyatines of land allotted to him for cultivation, or if he have, he may leave by permission of the Commune, he making provision for the cultivation of his land, and the payment of his taxes to the Crown.

The peasants are to remain in possession, perpetual and hereditary, of the houses in which they live and the gardens attached, on payment of a rent of three per cent on their valuation, and they may buy the property at any time or by instalments at this valuation, which is to be made by an equal number of nobles and peasants. As to other lands, those landholders who have more than six desyatines of land to each serf, have to give up nine desyatines to each family—that is to every male between the ages of 20 and 55; those who have less, must divide two-thirds of their land among their serfs, and those who cannot give to each family five desyatines must divide two-thirds of their property into five desyatines lots, and distribute these by lot among their serfs, those getting no land to receive complete personal liberty. The peasants shall have also a right to take all the wood they may require, at a fixed price.

The peasant is to pay as rent for each desyatine of his farming lands, ten days' labor with a horse, and ten days' without. The land-holder may exact this labor in money if he please, at one-third the ruling price of labor; that is, three days of this compulsory labor shall be counted equal to one of free labor. After seven years the peasant shall have the option of redeeming this rent-labor, one-tenth annually. The valuations shall be made once for all, and if a peasant neglects to cultivate his land, the Commune may take it or surrender it to the owner. So that a peasant may leave one Commune and establish himself in another, if he can secure land.

House-serfs also receive full civil rights, but for two years they are obliged to work for their present owner, at a fixed compensation. This obligation they may be freed from on payment of \$350 for men and \$100 for women, or at any time during the ten years by paying for the remaining time. The organization of rural Communes is provided for, over which the landowner presides with a veto power. In case of his veto, the measure adopted by the Commune goes up to a body representing both landowners and peasants.

## THE UPHAM WIFE DEFENDANCE CASE.

The examination of this case was resumed yesterday afternoon before Justice Welch, at the City Hall Police Court.

Wm. Smart, policeman of the Fifthteenth Precinct, was sworn, and testified that he saw Mr. Upham in May last following several young ladies as they left the public school building in Twelfth street. As Madison square Mr. Upham took hold of the arm of one of the young ladies. The young lady who was thus taken hold of, solicited his aid in getting rid of Mr. Upham. She told him (the officer) that her name was Miss Tucker—the young lady was present in Court, and is related to the complainant—and that she did not wish Mr. Upham to follow her and ascertain where she lived. He prevented Mr. Upham from following her any further.

Justice B. Upham, son of the defendant, was examined. He formerly lived with his father and step-mother in Twelfth street, in April last he heard his father remonstrate with his wife against leaving him; he urged as a reason for her to remain with him, that he was able and willing to support her, and that he had taken a mortgage of \$10,000 on West Nineteenth street, of which he was to obtain possession on the first of May ensuing; he asked Mrs. Upham to go and live with his father in Nineteenth street, and she positively asserted that she would not stay in the house with him; he (witness) was not on the best of terms with his step-mother; he never struck her, but on one occasion, wrenched a cooking utensil out of her hands; his father was very anxious to be reconciled to the residence of Miss Tucker, and employed a person to follow her to learn where she lived; part of the house engaged in West Nineteenth street was let out by his father to a Mr. Lopez, a Spaniard, who had lived in Mexico, and his reputed wife, who he understood was not really married, lived with his father in Nineteenth street, and had been supported by him ever since 1857, as he had no regular employment; Mrs. Upham, on one occasion, was induced to look at the room in Nineteenth street, and was invited to remain to breakfast by his father, but she would not eat, and refused to remain in the house.

The case was here adjourned till next Friday at 3 p. m., for a further hearing.

Little Ella has given several private readings during the week. The Academy of Music and the Cooper Institute Hall have been tendered to Little Ella for a grand complimentary benefit. A trial of her voice was made in both places yesterday, and resulted very satisfactorily. The benefit will take place in about ten days at the Academy.

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY.—On Thursday night, as Officer Albertson of the Ninth Precinct was passing along Bleeker street, he saw three young men consulting among themselves in a suspicious manner on the corner of Barrow and Bleeker streets, and followed them up until he saw them enter the yard of No. 31 Grove street, where they looked into the windows and inspected the door, one keeping guard on the sidewalk. The officer approached and arrested the two who were inside, the guard having taken to his heels at the appearance of the star. They attempted to pass the matter off by inquiring whether Mr. White lived there, and pretending to have a letter from him, but the officer, suspecting their intentions, searched their pockets and found a key and a small box. The two men were taken to the station and charged with attempted burglary.

THE TROY HOSPITAL BURNING.—A telegram from Troy, dated Jan. 14, gives some particulars with reference to the partial destruction of the Troy Hospital, additional to those published yesterday. It says: "About 5 o'clock last evening, the Troy Hospital on the corner of Fifth, Washington and Hill streets was discovered to be on fire in the third story. It originated from the heaters, burning up through the side walls."

"An alarm was sounded as soon as possible, but before the firemen could reach the ground and get a stream upon the building, the flames had communicated to the first and second stories. It was for some time quite doubtful whether the entire world, not to mention the Troy Hospital, would be saved. The brave efforts of the Fire Department finally succeeded in subduing the flames. The principal damage is confined to the corner portion of the building, or the middle ward."

The patients in the Hospital, fifty-three in number, were saved, and comfortably housed in the hall on Fifth street, which, for the present, will be used as a hospital.

"The loss will amount to about \$2,000, (\$1,500 on building and \$500 on furniture), part of which was insured. Mr. E. Bebock, agent of the Continental Insurance Company of New-York, informs us that there is an insurance of \$5,000 on the Troy Hospital building and \$3,000 in Troy Mutual (\$2,000 on the building and \$1,000 on furniture)."

"The Hospital has been on fire several times previously from the heaters, and its escape from destruction on this occasion should be a subject of congratulation."

## FROM KANSAS AND UTAH.

ST. LOUIS, Friday, Jan. 14, 1899.  
A special messenger from Gov. Moody to Gov. Stewart arrived at Jefferson City yesterday. He reports that Montgomery is fortifying himself near the Missouri line—that United States troops have been sent to that region, and that volunteers are being raised as rapidly as possible. Six hundred muskets passed through Jefferson City on Wednesday for Kansas.

The Salt Lake mail reached St. Joseph on the 10th. The Salt Lake City met again on the 17th ult. Much excitement prevailed in reference to the sudden and mysterious disappearance of a deaf and dumb boy, and the Saints were charged with foul play in the matter.

## The California Overland Mail.

ST. LOUIS, Friday, Jan. 14, 1899.  
The Overland Mail, with San Francisco dates of the 5th ult., has arrived here. No through or way passengers came with it. The news is of no importance.

## Mexican News.

NEW-ORLEANS, Wednesday, Jan. 12, 1899.  
Additional advices from Mexico, of the 9th inst., state that Juarez has refused to listen to the commissioners from Mexico.

Zuloaga, before the fall, had approved the proposition from France and England for a settlement of the Spanish question, and the Spanish authorities had expressed their satisfaction.

The United States frigate Saratoga was still at Sacrificios.

NEW-ORLEANS, Thursday, Jan. 13, 1899.  
The only additional news of importance by the Tennessee is that there were five French, four Spanish and three English men-of-war vessels at Sacrificios.

## Later from Havana.

SAVANNAH, Thursday, Jan. 12, 1899.  
The steamship Isabel, arrived off Tybee, with Havana dates of the 10th. Sugar was quiet, the holidays not having ended. Freight and Exchange were unchanged.

The Tampa steamer of the 8th says that Col. Bector arrived on the 6th, with a delegation of Western Senators, to make a last effort to remove the Florida Indians.

The Savannah and Cuba telegraph line has been commenced, and will be rapidly extended to Fernandina through north-western Georgia and Florida.

The slave-trade was active in Cuba; nearly 2,000 Africans were reported to have been landed.

There had been extensive smuggling of land under the guise of potatoes, and an order would be issued soon requiring cargoes to be notified by the Spanish Consuls at their point of departure.

NEW-ORLEANS, Thursday, Jan. 13, 1899.  
The steamship Empire City, with Havana dates of the 10th, has arrived. Sugar was dull at 24 cents; stock in port, 37,000 boxes. Lard firm at 17 cents. Exchange advancing, and Sterling quoted 131 premium; New-York, 34 premium.

## Detention of the North American.

ALBANY, Monday, Jan. 14, 1899.  
The Canadian screw steamer North American will not sail for Liverpool to-morrow, as advertised, as it has been found necessary to take her into the dry-dock, to repair the injury she sustained in striking upon the rock off Cape Race. It is hoped that she may be got ready to sail on Saturday of next week.

## Death of Capt. Tunk Van Vechten.

ALBANY, Friday, Jan. 14, 1899.  
Capt. Tunk Van Vechten, jr., died suddenly to-day.

## The America Outward Bound.

HALIFAX, Friday, Jan. 14, 1899.  
The Royal Mail steamship America, from Boston, arrived here at 7 o'clock this morning, and sailed at 9 for Liverpool. Weather calm and overcast.

## U. S. Supreme Court.

BOSTON, Friday, Jan. 14, 1899.  
No. 285. John T. Mason vs. Joseph C. Gamble et al. Motion to dismiss argued for and against.  
No. 39. George Smith vs. Jno. J. Orton. Argument concluded for appellant.  
No. 40. The United States vs. Michael Nye. Argument commenced for the appellants and continued for the appellees. Adjourned.

## The Ship Edward.

BOSTON, Friday, Jan. 14, 1899.  
The ship Edward, from Calcutta, for Boston, has arrived at Provincetown, with loss of sails, bulwarks stove, plank split, shear strained in the fore channel, and leaking badly, and with only four men fit for duty. She will be towed to this port.

## The Niagara News at New-Orleans.

NEW-ORLEANS, Friday, Jan. 14, 1899.  
The European advices, per steamship Niagara at Halifax, were received by the agent of the Associated Press at 12 o'clock, by the National line, and published in the regular afternoon editions of the associated press exclusively.

## The Thorndike Will Case.

BOSTON, Friday, Jan. 14, 1899.  
Mr. B. R. Curtis, one of the counsel for Lieut. Harin, appeared before the Judge of Probate to-day and asked for a postponement of the hearing on account of the engagements of Rufus Choate, his colleague in the case. He also gave notice that the jurisdiction of the Court in the matter would be contested on the ground that Mr. Thorndike was not an inhabitant of Massachusetts.

By arrangement of counsel, W. H. F. Gardner and W. N. Davis were appointed special trustees of the property pending the legal decision, with satisfactory powers, which will be fixed by the Court on Monday next. A full hearing of the case was assigned for Friday next.

## FROM WASHINGTON.

RE-ELECTION OF MESSRS. FESSENDEN AND WILSON.—MR. THUMBALL—THE DEBATES IN THE SENATE.  
FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12, 1899.

Under the telegraphic head this morning, we find the gratifying, though not unexpected, intelligence of the reelection of William Pitt Fessenden and Henry Wilson to the Senate. In thus doing, the States of Maine and Massachusetts have shown their appreciation of high merit and their approval of representatives who have been tried and found equal to the exigencies of the times.

It is but uttering the general sentiment of his associates, to say that Mr. Fessenden stands in the front rank of Senators. As a debater, he is not surpassed by any of his colleagues. At least, it would be difficult to name his superior in those extemporaneous contests which sometimes convulse the Senate. Constitutionally cool and cautious, always quick to see the very point in controversy, possessing a ready command of terse elocution wherein to express the clear conceptions of his mind, and with a courage that never vacillates, even in the face of the exigency, Mr. Fessenden is as competent to meet and master what Lord Coke calls "the emergency sudden," as any man in that body.

Mr. Fessenden's legal training has done much to prepare him to excel in this field. The remark of that most philosophic of observers, Edmund Burke,

## FROM WASHINGTON.

concerning Grenville, the author of the Stamp Act, is as true now in its application to the bar generally, as it was then. Speaking of Grenville, Burke said, "He was bred in a profession. He was bred to the law, which is, in my opinion, one of the first and noblest of human sciences; a science which does more to quicken and invigorate the understanding than all the other kinds of learning put together; but is not apt, except in persons very happily born, to open and to liberalize the mind exactly in the same proportion." Mr. Fessenden was bred to the law, and, like his distinguished father, he has been able and successful in his profession. But his mind is cast in so liberal a mold, and his political associations have been of so progressive a character, that though the discipline of the bar has given him the quickness and vigor of Burke's lawyer, he has escaped the narrowness which that great man attributes to the profession generally.

In scanning the Republican side of the Chamber, the observant eye promptly assigns Mr. Trumbull to the same class of dissections with Mr. Fessenden. Judge T. possesses a remarkable power of analysis. His logic goes right to the mark. His first speech in the Senate was on Douglas's Kansas report of March, 1856, which he dissected limb by limb, joint by joint, muscle by muscle, causing his auditor to writhe in his seat as if his cushion were of iron, and stuffed with coals of fire. The "little giant," unused to such treatment, attempted in reply to browbeat his colleague, and got severely punished in return. This forensic *malade*, protracted through two or three hours, and drawing Sumner and Crittenden into the ring with the principal combatants, convinced all parties in the Senate, and the overhanging galleries and the lobbies packed with excited spectators, that the debating force on the Republican side had received a powerful accession in the lucid, analytical, pungent mind of the new member from Illinois.

We are speaking of our debaters, strictly so called. In placing Messrs. Fessenden and Trumbull in the front rank of debaters on the Republican side, we do not disparage the forensic powers of Seward, Hale, and the Sumner that was (and we hope will be again), each of whom stands pre-eminent in his own sphere—a sphere more attractive to most minds, and broader, perhaps, in the general estimation, than that of Messrs. Fessenden and Trumbull.

Mr. Fessenden (of whom we are particularly writing) compares favorably with the best debaters on the other side of the Chamber. With Douglas, for instance—vigorous but cautious in attack, quick to detect and expose a sophism or an error of fact in his opponent's argument, and mercurial in torturing him with an unguarded admission or some unfortunate allusion—as witness his painful broodings of Bigler over a quick fire at the last session. And with Toombs—dashing into the thick of the fight, like Murat at the head of the cuirassiers, dealing blows right and left, but getting badly cut up himself for lack of a well-adjusted corset and helmet; or, to change the figure, his many apt ideas almost smothered under his multifold verbiage, and making up in the audacity of the diction what is wanting in the intrinsic strength of the argument. And with Benjamin, who exhibits in debate a happy combination of the rigid discipline of the lawyer, with the liberal culture of the scholar. And with Pugh, who affects argument, but whose sharp, thin, county-court mind, is better fitted for the technicalities of *nisi prius*, than the discussion of national questions in the Senate Chambers. And with Crittenden, the noblest Roman of them all, who, though he has passed the era of three score and ten, can, when pressed with the weight of a great subject, or roused to repel a vigorous attack, reason as closely, and retort as severely, as he could twenty years and more ago, when he contended with Benton, Wright, Forsyth, and the other "choice and mas-ters of the age," in the Bank struggle; or towered the crest of Stentor Allen by turning short upon him, when Allen attempted to dictate to the Senate, and asking with cutting emphasis—

"Now in the names of all the gods at once,  
Upon what death dost thou this Cæsar feed,  
That he is grown so great?"

But, we are treading on delicate ground. Was it Mrs. Malaprop or Mrs. Partington, who said that comparisons are odorous, and smell to Heaven? We must return to Mr. Wilson.

Gen. Wilson is one of the most valuable members of the Senate. He has three important qualifications for a national legislator in crooked, crooked, perilous times, viz.: a clear head, a stout heart, and a sound body. Industrious, laborious, always in his place, and ever ready to go when and where duty calls; he is the faithful representative of a model constituency. He is remarkable for the patience and zeal with which he studies and masters all subjects he attempts to handle. If he is stimulated to this habit by a consciousness of defects in his early education, it affords another proof of the truism, that "self-made men are the best-made men," and is another illustration of the too high estimate placed by common people upon the advantages of a so-called "liberal education." Wilson is a manly, straight-forward speaker, caring more about the quality of the kernel than the hue of the husk, and laboring rather to set his subject in a clear light than to surround himself with a blaze of rhetoric. Though no man knows better than himself that he must look upward when surveying the colossal intellect of Daniel Webster, and that he displays neither the Ciceroan oratory of Edward Everett, nor the dramatic eloquence of Rufus Choate. Yet, the country knows that he now fills the seat once occupied by them, quite as acceptably and profitably to glorious old Massachusetts, as either of them did in his boy days.

## UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

SEVENTH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.  
Special Correspondence of THE N. Y. TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12, 1899.

Our National Agricultural Society opened its seventh annual meeting, at the Smithsonian Institute, at 11 o'clock this morning. The large hall was quite filled with members and delegates from various associations for promoting agriculture. It is especially gratifying to notice the greater attendance of Senators and Representatives than in former years, for it betokens an increased recognition of the claims of agriculture upon Government attention, and the participation of those members in the discussion before the Society augurs that they are alive to the real interests of their constituents.

The Chair requested gentlemen who had brought credentials as delegates from Societies to enroll their names. This having been done, the Secretary announced that twenty States, two Territories, and the District of Columbia were represented in the Council. The meeting having been called to order, President Tilden proceeded to deliver a practical address, abounding in valuable suggestions as to the future of the Society, and recapitulating the year's results. In obedience to the Society's action to that effect, a permanent office was in January last opened in the City of Washington, at which all the business (except during its exhibitions) had been, and would be, transacted. The opening of the office was followed by the publication of a "Monthly Bulletin," edited

by the Secretary and furnished gratuitously to members. By this means the Society had not only kept in correspondence with its members, but as well with all the various agricultural and horticultural societies in this country, in Canada, and with the principal ones in Europe. Monthly abstracts of the contents of the crops throughout the country, and notices of valuable inventions relating to agriculture were regularly published, together with the doings of the agricultural division of the Patent Office.

You will thus see that the Society has passed out of its infancy, and established a real healthy sphere of good, practical work. It is of course not to be compared with the English National Society, but that could not be expected, when one considers the vast difference in their conditions, the English Society being supported by voluntary contributions from its noble and wealthy members, and having under the patronage of the Queen, while our own is entirely dependent upon the receipts at its annual fairs.

The President suggests that in future the National show shall never be held in conjunction or partnership with local societies, for it is not productive of either. He recommends that more prominence be given to the evening discussions on agriculture during the fairs, and that a competent reporter be engaged to preserve them for publication in the Society's Transactions for much practical and useful information is elicited, which is now lost. He also recommends the appointment of an additional member to the position of "Superintendent," who would be intrusted with the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Chair also called the attention of the Society to an act of discourtesy toward it on the part of D. J. [Brown], the clerk who manages the seed Department of the Patent Office, and edited the Report of that Office. Gen. Tilden said:

"An uninterrupted harmony which has heretofore prevailed between the United States Agricultural Society and all the other Agricultural institutions in this country has been as highly gratifying as it was calculated to advance the production of the crops throughout the country, and notices of valuable inventions relating to agriculture were regularly published, together with the doings of the agricultural division of the Patent Office."

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

The Secretary suggested that the Society should have a more prominent place in the management of the exhibitions, under the direction of the President and Executive Committee, and who should also have charge of all the preliminary arrangements. His compensation to be a per diem while employed with duties at his office, besides his traveling and other necessary expenses.

## FROM WASHINGTON.

concerning Grenville, the author of the Stamp Act, is as true now in its application to the bar generally, as it was then. Speaking of Grenville, Burke said, "He was bred in a profession. He was bred to the law, which is, in my opinion, one of the first and noblest of human sciences; a science which does more to quicken and invigorate the understanding than all the other kinds of learning put together; but is not apt, except in persons very happily born, to open and to liberalize the mind exactly in the same proportion." Mr. Fessenden was bred to the law, and, like his distinguished father, he has been able and successful in his profession. But his mind is cast in so liberal a mold, and his political associations have been of so progressive a character, that though the discipline of the bar has given him the quickness and vigor of Burke's lawyer, he has escaped the narrowness which that great man attributes to the profession generally.

In scanning the Republican side of the Chamber, the observant eye promptly assigns Mr. Trumbull to the same class of dissections with Mr. Fessenden. Judge T. possesses a remarkable power of analysis. His logic goes right to the mark. His first speech in the Senate was on Douglas's Kansas report of March, 1856, which he dissected limb by limb, joint by joint, muscle by muscle, causing his auditor to writhe in his seat as if his cushion were of iron, and stuffed with coals of fire. The "little giant," unused to such treatment, attempted in reply to browbeat his colleague, and got severely punished in return. This forensic *malade*, protracted through two or three hours, and drawing Sumner and Crittenden into the ring with the principal combatants, convinced all parties in the Senate, and the overhanging galleries and the lobbies packed with excited spectators, that the debating force on the Republican side had received a powerful accession in the lucid, analytical, pungent mind of the new member from Illinois.

We are speaking of our debaters, strictly so called. In placing Messrs. Fessenden and Trumbull in the front rank of debaters on the Republican side, we do not disparage the forensic powers of Seward, Hale, and the Sumner that was (and we hope will be again), each of whom stands pre-eminent in his own sphere—a sphere more attractive to most minds, and broader, perhaps, in the general estimation, than that of Messrs. Fessenden and Trumbull.

Mr. Fessenden (of whom we are particularly writing) compares favorably with the best debaters on the other side of the Chamber. With Douglas, for instance—vigorous but cautious in attack, quick to detect and expose a sophism or an error of fact in his opponent's argument, and mercurial in torturing him with an unguarded admission or some unfortunate allusion—as witness his painful broodings of Bigler over a quick fire at the last session. And with Toombs—dashing into the thick of the fight, like Murat at the head of the cuirassiers, dealing blows right and left, but getting badly cut up himself for lack of a well-adjusted corset and helmet; or, to change the figure, his many apt ideas almost smothered under his multifold verbiage, and making up in the audacity of the diction what is wanting in the intrinsic strength of the argument. And with Benjamin, who exhibits in debate a happy combination of the rigid discipline of the lawyer, with the liberal culture of the scholar. And with Pugh, who affects argument, but whose sharp, thin, county-court mind, is better fitted for the technicalities of *nisi prius*, than the discussion of national questions in the Senate Chambers. And with Crittenden, the noblest Roman of them all, who, though he has passed the era of three score and ten, can, when pressed with the weight of a great subject, or roused to repel a vigorous attack, reason as closely, and retort as severely, as he could twenty years and more ago, when he contended with Benton, Wright, Forsyth, and the other "choice and mas-ters of the age," in the Bank struggle; or towered the crest of Stentor Allen by turning short upon him, when Allen attempted to dictate to the Senate, and asking with cutting emphasis—

"Now in the names of all the gods at once,  
Upon what death dost thou this Cæsar feed,  
That he is grown so great?"

But, we are treading on delicate ground. Was it Mrs. Malaprop or Mrs. Partington, who said that comparisons are odorous, and smell to Heaven? We must return to Mr. Wilson.

Gen. Wilson is one of the most valuable members of the Senate. He has three important qualifications for a national legislator in crooked, crooked, perilous times, viz.: a clear head, a stout heart, and a sound body. Industrious, laborious, always in his place, and ever ready to go when and where duty calls; he is the faithful representative of a model constituency. He is remarkable for the patience and zeal with which he studies and masters all subjects he attempts to handle. If he is stimulated to this habit by a consciousness of defects in his early education, it affords another proof of the truism, that "self-made men are the best-made men," and is another illustration of the too high estimate placed by common people upon the advantages of a so-called "liberal education." Wilson is a manly, straight-forward speaker, caring more about the quality of the kernel than the hue of the husk, and laboring rather to set his subject in a clear light than to surround himself with a blaze of rhetoric. Though no man knows better than himself that he must look upward when surveying the colossal intellect of Daniel Webster, and that he displays neither the Ciceroan oratory of Edward Everett, nor the dramatic eloquence of Rufus Choate. Yet, the country knows that he now fills the seat once occupied by them, quite as acceptably and profitably to glorious old Massachusetts, as either of them did in his boy days.

## UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

SEVENTH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.  
Special Correspondence of THE N. Y. TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12, 1899.

Our National Agricultural Society opened its seventh annual meeting, at the Smithsonian Institute, at 11 o'clock this morning. The large hall was quite filled with members and delegates from various associations for promoting agriculture. It is especially gratifying to notice the greater attendance of Senators and Representatives than in former years, for it betokens an increased recognition of the claims of agriculture upon Government attention, and the participation of those members in the discussion before the Society augurs that they are alive to the real interests of their constituents.

The Chair requested gentlemen who had brought credentials as delegates from Societies to enroll their names. This having been done, the Secretary announced that twenty States, two Territories, and the District of Columbia were represented in the Council. The meeting having been called to order, President Tilden proceeded to deliver a practical address, abounding in valuable suggestions as to the future of the Society, and recapitulating the year's results. In obedience to the Society's action to that effect, a permanent office was in January last opened in the City of Washington, at which all the business (except during its exhibitions) had been, and would be, transacted. The opening of the office was followed by the publication of a "Monthly Bulletin," edited

by the Secretary and furnished gratuitously to members. By this means the Society had not only kept in correspondence with its members, but as well with all the various agricultural and horticultural societies in this country, in Canada, and with the principal ones in Europe. Monthly abstracts of the contents of the